

Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master Plan (GRSMMP)

Focus area	Purpose/Action	Status	co-Leads
Authorities, Policies, and Funding	Identify issues associated with authorities, policies and funding important to developing and implementing the GRSMMP. The intention is to evaluate existing related information and examine means to provide greater flexibility to support restoration projects. Existing authorities and policies can be evaluated on how they can be utilized to promote RSM actions. This focus area should also provide recommendations to promote flexibility in the implementation of RSM actions.	Using notes from past meetings, workshops, conference calls, etc. a list was made of issues and concerns already identified by the working group. The participants recommended additions to the list which were then discussed, refined, and prioritized. The prioritized list was intended to be preliminary, recognizing that only a few representatives from the states and sub-group team members were in attendance. However, the group felt that significant progress was made and the prioritized list should be distributed to the rest of the state reps and team members for their review and input. The list was subsequently distributed to the team.	John Bowie (EPA), Ray Newby (TX)
Sediment Resources -- Sediment Inventory	Compile federal and state agency information about existing studies and programs identifying sediment availability, its characteristics, etc.	The workgroup co-leads (Jeff Williams and Jaun Moya) and have coordinated focus areas activities. An outline was developed as a mock-up of what the sediment inventory part of the report will include. with the intension of blending this with the sediment budget part of the report. USGS is moving ahead and is populating new sediment data into the USGS usSEABED system that was last published as DS 146. A new version of the publication will be available this winter and it will serve as the basis for the Inventory report.	Jeff Williams (USGS) and Juan Moya (TX).

Sediment Resources -- Sediment Budget	Assemble sediment budget and related process information assess for relevance to GRSMMP; summarize existing works, identify gaps with little or no sediment budget, and provide recommendations to fill gaps.	The workgroup co-leads (Jeff Waters and Syed Khalil) met and developed strategy for the direction of this focus area. Previous works by Dr. Andrew Morang (ERDC) will be used in identifying existing sediment budgets, confidence levels, and gaps. Much of the information compiled for Dr. Morang's report will be imported into the Sediment Budget Analysis System (SBAS). The effort should provide a visual display of our understanding the transport of coarse grained sediment in the littoral zone. Data gaps, unbalanced, and balanced cells will become evident. The effort will be initiated in October and will also incorporate data not currently in Dr. Morang's report including the Mobile District's regional sediment budget completed as part of MsCIP as well as several project scale sediment budgets prepared by the Louisiana Department of National Resources.	Jeff Waters (ERDC) and Syed Khalil (LA).
Sediment Resources -- Dredging Activities	Information about active dredging projects - where dredging is being conducted, the nature of the material, where it is typically placed, and dredging cycle. The focus area should also provide Information about beneficial use of dredged material within the Gulf region.	The Gulf Corps Districts have compiled dredging information and provided to Rose Dopsovic (SAM Spatial Data Branch) for population into a regional database. A link to the information will soon be distributed so that the team can access and review the information.	Larry Parson (USACE, Mobile) and Greg Ducote (LA).
Information Management	Provide a platform that identifies and provides links to existing information that is needed in support of RSM activities.	The (Priority Habitat Information System (PHINS) being developed by USGS, NOAA, and USACE has been recommended as a potential platform for distributing information relating to the GRSMMP. A conference call was held between GRSMMP and PHINS. It was established that the GRSMMP data needs fits in well with the PHINS mission. PHINS is a metadata driven platform.	TBD

Ecological Components to RSM	Identify state sediment resource needs; Identify ecological concerns important to integrate into the GRS MMP or sediment mgt practices	Co-leads to meet at St. Petersburg meeting to discuss and determine initial activities. During the May conf call, it was noted that some recent information developed by TX may provide a foundation for this focus area. GLOs recently developed “map of critically eroding areas,” which can be useful in identifying habitat loss due to sediment starvation and other areas with sediment needs.	Rafael Calderon (TNC) and Carl Ferraro (AL)
ID State Needs	TBD		TBD
	<u>Actions that contribute to multiple focus areas</u>		
	__need input from remaining state questionnaires		
	__need to quantitatively analyze current sediment management practices; what’s working and/or what it is that really needs fixed. Some management approaches take sediment out of a system while other approaches add it to the system with no real understanding of how it affects the sediment processes. Addressing such issues will ultimately provide an argument for the need of a management plan. Although a lot of the problems identified are related to sediment resources, ultimately the problem may need to be addressed in the Authorities, Policies, and Funding focus area that dictates how sediment can be managed.		

Status Matrix - September 24, 2007		
Subcommittee	Next steps	References
Greg Docote (LA), Carl Ferraro (AL), Kris Benson (NOAA), Rafael Calderon (TNC), Lynn Martin (COE-IWR)	Organize next meeting. Solicit comments from team members regarding dicussions at Alliance meeting in St. Petersburg. Refine issues.	
Still identifying other workgroup members.	The workgroup will be contacting the states reps to get contact names from FL, AL and MS who serve as their local experts in offshore sediments.	

Cherie Price (MVN)	When this phase one is complete, the effort will identify data gaps and prioritize areas to focus efforts for refining the sediment budget based upon identified state needs. Dr. Morang's report also made a preliminary effort to identify sediment management issues. This information will be used as an initial strawman for evalaution by the team.	
Bob Heinley (SWG) Matt Shrader (SAJ), Billy Hicks (MVN)	Solicit review comments and determine refinements. Begin write up in GRSMMP	
USGS, USACE, NOAA, States,	Andy also made a preliminary effort to identify sediment management issues in each of the eight reaches and we will extract this information as an initial strawman for evalaution by the team.	

	Define promary focus area task and establish milestones.	Dredged Material Mgt Strategy for Tampa Bay (Jacksonville District); Tampa Bay Dredged Hole Habitat Assessment Project (Apr 2005) - examined sediment characteristics, fish use, water quality and other info to make recommendations regarding filling or retaining the holes
TBD		